

MYCOTAXON

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5248/130.429>

Volume 130, pp. 429–436

April–June 2015

***Graphis hongkongensis* sp. nov.
and other *Graphis* spp. new to Hong Kong**WEI GUO^{1,2} & JAE-SEOUN HUR^{1*}¹Korean Lichen Research Institute, Suncheon National University, Suncheon 540-950, Korea²State Key Laboratory of Mycology, Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100101, China* CORRESPONDENCE TO: jshur1@sunchon.ac.kr

ABSTRACT — Eleven *Graphis* species are newly recorded from Hong Kong. *Graphis hongkongensis* is new to science, *G. centrifuga* and *G. hyphosa* are new to China, and *G. assimilis*, *G. descissa*, *G. duplicata*, *G. immersella*, *G. immersicans*, *G. japonica*, *G. parallela*, and *G. plagiocarpa* are new to Hong Kong. *Graphis hongkongensis* possesses lineola-morph lirellae, a completely carbonized exciple, small to medium-sized ascospores, and the presence of stictic acid. A brief description of each species is given.

KEY WORDS — *Graphidaceae*, lichenized fungi, new species

Introduction

Graphidaceae, with over 2300 species belonging to more than 50 genera, is considered the largest crustose lichen community (Lücking et al. 2009; Rivas Plata et al. 2010, 2012; Rivas Plata & Lücking 2013). *Graphis*, its type genus, is characterized by lirelliform ascomata; a carbonized proper exciple; a hymenium interspersed with granules or not; hyaline, transversely septate to muriform, amyloid ascospores reacting blue or blue-violet in iodine; and the presence or absence of lichen compounds. There are more than 70 *Graphis* species in China (Jia & Wei 2008, 2009, 2011; Jia 2011, Jia et al. 2012), of which 18 taxa have been reported previously in Hong Kong (Thrower 1988, Wei 1991, Aptroot & Seaward 1999, Aptroot & Sipman 2001, Seaward & Aptroot 2005).

A revision of *Graphis* from Hong Kong conducted under the frame of the Flora Lichenum Sinicorum resulted in the discovery of 11 new records for Hong Kong, including a new species, *Graphis hongkongensis*, and two new records for China, *G. centrifuga* and *G. hyphosa*.

Materials & methods

Hong Kong, special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, is located at the southern coast of China with subtropical climate. Material was collected mainly from Hong Kong in 2011 and is preserved in the Herbarium Mycologicum Academiae Sinicae-Lichenes (HMAS-L). A Motic SMZ-168 dissecting microscope (Scientific Instrument Company, Inc., Campbell, USA) and Zeiss Axioskop 2 plus compound microscopes (Zeiss Scope, Oberkochen, Germany) in part connected to Nikon D50 digital microscope cameras (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) were used for the morphological and anatomical examinations. Lugol's solution, spot tests, and TLC in solvent system C (toluene : acetic acid = 200 : 30) were used for chemical study (Culbertson & Kristensson 1970, Culbertson 1972, White & James 1985).

Taxonomy

Graphis assimilis Nyl., Bull. Soc. Linn. Normandie, sér. 2, 2: 109. 1868.

Thallus, off-white. Ascomata, sinuous, immersed to erumpent, simple to branched, sometimes clustered (*lineola*-morph); labia, entire proper exciple, completely carbonized; hymenium, not interspersed; ascospores 8/ascus, transversely 8–10-locular, hyaline, $35\text{--}50 \times 7.5\text{--}8.75\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, I+ blue.

CHEMISTRY: Norstictic acid detected in TLC.

DISTRIBUTION & ECOLOGY: Eastern palaeotropical (Lücking et al. 2009); new to Hong Kong. This corticolous species was previously known from China (Jia & Wei 2011) and India (Adawadkar & Makhija 2006, 2007).

SPECIMEN EXAMINED: HONG KONG, LAUTAU ISLAND, the road from Lautau Peak to Nam Shan, $22^{\circ}14'N$ $113^{\circ}56'E$, alt. 384 m, on bark of tree, 15 Dec. 2011, Wei Guo & Jinxiu Tian HK367.

REMARKS: This species is anatomically and chemically similar to *Graphis intricata* Fée, which differs in its *deserpens*-or *centrifuga*-morph lirellae and smaller ascospores (15–30 μm long).

Graphis centrifuga Räsänen, Suom. Elain-ja Kasvit. Seuran Van. Tiedon. Pöytäkirjat 3: 186. 1949.

Thallus, yellowish grey. Lirellae, immersed to sessile, in satellite clusters (*centrifuga*-morph); proper exciple, completely carbonized; hymenium, 100–120 μm high, interspersed; ascospores, 8/ascus, transversely 6–8-locular, hyaline, $20\text{--}25 \times 5\text{--}10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, I–.

CHEMISTRY: Norstictic acid detected in TLC.

DISTRIBUTION & ECOLOGY: Eastern palaeotropical (Lücking et al. 2009); new to China. *Graphis centrifuga* is a corticolous species known also from Australia (Staiger 2002).

SPECIMEN EXAMINED: HONG KONG, NEW TERRITORIES, Ma On Shan, Mui Tsz Lam, $22^{\circ}23'N$ $114^{\circ}14'E$, alt. 187 m, 14 Dec. 2011, Wei Guo HK358.

REMARKS: *Graphis centrifuga* most closely resembles *G. cervinonigra* Zahlbr., which differs in its short lirellae (*coarctata*-morph).

Graphis descissa Müll. Arg., Bull. Herb. Boissier 3: 318. 1895.

Thallus, off-white. Labia entire; lirellae immersed (*subserpentina*-morph); proper exciple completely carbonized; hymenium 100–120 µm high, not interspersed; ascospores 8/ascus, transversely 8–10-locular, (20–)28–37 × 6.25–8 µm, I+ blue.

CHEMISTRY: Stictic acid.

DISTRIBUTION & ECOLOGY: Neotropical and eastern palaeotropical (Lücking et al. 2009); new to Hong Kong. The species is an inconspicuous, corticolous species that also occurs in Australia (Archer 2006).

SPECIMEN EXAMINED: HONG KONG, NEW TERRITORIES, Ma On Shan, Mui Tsz Lam, 22°23'N 114°14'E, alt. 187 m, 14 Dec. 2011, Wei Guo HK356–1.

REMARKS: *Graphis descissa* resembles *G. flavovirens* Makhija & Adaw. in its thallus containing stictic acid, but the lirellae in *G. flavovirens* are very long and radially branched (*centrifuga*-morph).

Graphis duplicata Ach., Syn. Meth. Lich.: 81. 1814.

Thallus, whitish grey to grey. Labia striate (*striatula*-morph); proper exciple laterally carbonized; ascospores 8/ascus, transversely 8–9-locular, hyaline, 32.5–42.5 × 5–7.5 µm, I+ blue.

CHEMISTRY: No lichen compounds detected in TLC.

DISTRIBUTION & ECOLOGY: Pantropical (Lücking et al. 2009); new to Hong Kong. *Graphis duplicata* is a widely distributed species, found on tree bark in China (Jia & Wei 2011), India (Adawadkar & Makhija 2007), and South America, Philippines, Indonesia, and Australia (Staiger 2002, Archer 2006).

SPECIMEN EXAMINED: HONG KONG, NEW TERRITORIES, Ma On Shan, Mui Tsz Lam, 22°23'N 114°14'E, alt. 70 m, 14 Dec. 2011, Wei Guo HK349–3.

REMARKS: *Graphis duplicata* can be distinguished from *G. tenella* Ach. in having *striatula*-morph lirellae and from *G. striatula* (Ach.) Spreng. in having smaller ascospores.

Graphis hongkongensis Wei Guo & J.S. Hur, sp. nov.

PLATE 1

FUNGAL NAME FN570089

Differs from *Graphis gloriosensis* by its *lineola*-morph lirellae and its smaller ascospores with less trans-septation.

TYPE— China, Hong Kong, Lautau Island, the road from Lautau Peak to Nam Shan, on bark, 22°14'N 113°56'E, alt. 384 m, 15 Dec. 2011, W. Guo & J.X. Tian HK365 (**Holotype**, HMAS-L 128226).

ETYMOLOGY— referring to the type locality, Hong Kong.

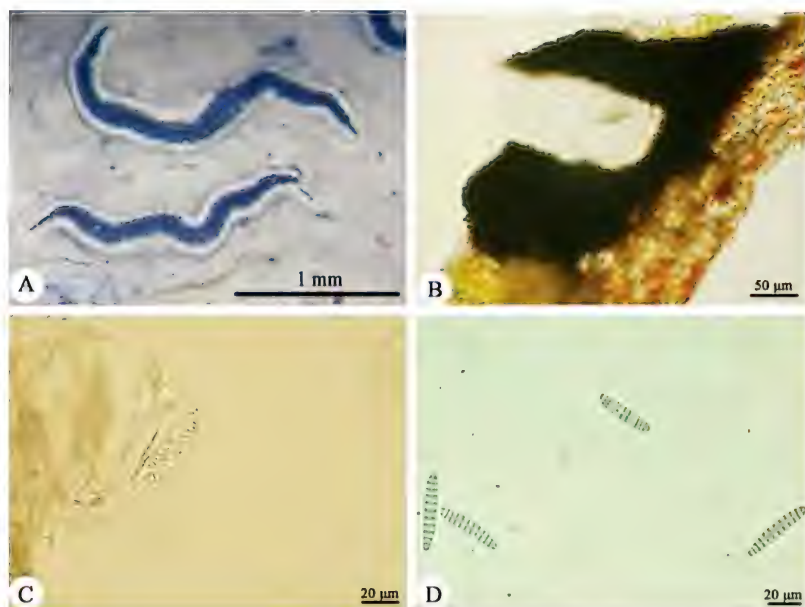


PLATE 1. *Graphis hongkongensis* (holotype, HMAS-L 128226). A, habit; B, cross-section of an apothecium; C, ascus with ascospores; D, ascospores.

THALLUS pale grayish white to pale white, smooth. Ascomata lirelliform, sub-immersed to erumpent, simple to sparsely branched, 1–4 mm long, 0.2–0.3 mm wide. Disc concealed (narrow to slightly open), blackish brown to black, without pruina. Thalline margin lateral, well developed (*lineola*-morph lirellae). Proper exciple completely carbonized. Hymenium colourless, inspersed, 90–135 µm high, I–. Paraphyses unbranched, dense, thin, 1.25–2.5 µm wide, filiform, warty in tips.

ASCI 6–8-spored, 82.5–100 × 17.5–25 µm. Ascospores fusiform, transversely 8–12-locular, 25–50 × 7.5–10 µm, I+ violet-blue.

CHEMISTRY: Stictic acid detected in TLC.

REMARKS: *Graphis hongkongensis* closely resembles *G. gloriosensis* A.W. Archer & Elix in having entire labia, a lateral thalline margin, a completely carbonized excipulum, an inspersed hymenium, transversely septate ascospores, and a thallus containing stictic acid. However, *G. gloriosensis* is distinguished by *marginata*-morph lirellae, comparatively larger ascospores (50–90 × 9–16 µm) with more trans-septation, and being so far known only from Australia (Lücking et al. 2009).

Graphis kelungana Zahlbr., which resembles *G. hongkongensis* in having entire labia, an inspersed hymenium, transversely septate and similarly sized ascospores, a thallus containing stictic acid, and a similar geographical

distribution, is clearly separated by its lateral carbonization and *subserpentina*-morph lirellae. *Graphis lineola* Ach., which has similar lirellae morphology and shares most of the anatomical characteristics with *G. hongkongensis*, differs by its laterally carbonized excipulum and a thallus lacking lichen compounds.

Graphis hyphosa Staiger, Bibl. Lichenol. 85: 235. 2002.

Thallus, light yellow to yellowish grey. Ascomata immersed in pseudostromata, stellately branched (*hyphosa*-morph); labia entire; proper exciple completely carbonized; hymenium clear; ascospores 4–8/ascus, transversely 6–9-locular, hyaline, $20\text{--}37.5 \times 7.5\text{--}10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, I+ blue.

CHEMISTRY: No lichen compounds detected in TLC.

DISTRIBUTION & ECOLOGY: Neotropical (Lücking et al. 2009). New to China. *Graphis hyphosa* occurs on tree bark in Costa Rica and Brazil (Staiger 2002).

SPECIMEN EXAMINED: HONG KONG, LAUTAU ISLAND, the road from Lautau Peak to Nam Shan, 22°14'N 113°56'E, alt. 384 m, 15 Dec. 2011, Wei Guo & Jinxiu Tian HK370.

REMARKS: *Graphis intricata*, which also has entire labia, a completely carbonized excipulum, a clear hymenium, and transversely septate ascospores, can easily be distinguished from *G. hyphosa* by its *deserpens*- or *centrifuga*-morph, smaller ascospores, and thallus containing norstictic acid.

Graphis immersella Müll. Arg., Bull. Herb. Boissier 3: 319. 1895.

Thallus off-white. Ascomata lirellae, entire labia, *lineola*-morph; proper exciple, laterally carbonized; hymenium, not inspersed; ascospores 8/ascus, transversely 6–11-locular, hyaline, $20\text{--}47.5 \times 7.5\text{--}12.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, I+ blue.

CHEMISTRY: Stictic acid detected in TLC.

DISTRIBUTION & ECOLOGY: Palaeotropical (Lücking et al. 2009); new to Hong Kong. The species is a corticolous species known from China (Jia & Wei 2011, Zahlbruckner 1930); the Solomon Islands, Christmas Island, and Vanuatu (Archer 2006); Australia (Archer 1999); and India (Adawadkar & Makhija 2007).

SPECIMEN EXAMINED: HONG KONG, NEW TERRITORIES, Tai Mo Shan, 22°24'N 114°54'E, alt. 906 m, 11 Dec. 2011, Meng Liu HK218.

REMARKS: *Graphis immersella* resembles *G. leptogramma* Nyl. in ascomatal anatomy and a thallus producing stictic acid but differs in its slightly smaller ascospores.

Graphis immersicans A.W. Archer, Aust. Syst. Bot. 14: 262. 2001.

Thallus, whitish grey. Ascomata lirellae, erumpent (*lineola*- or *deserpens*-morph); proper exciple, completely carbonized; hymenium 70–90 μm high, not inspersed; ascospores, 4–6/ascus, transversely 6–12-locular, hyaline, $25\text{--}45 \times 7.5\text{--}10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, I+ blue.

CHEMISTRY: No lichen compounds detected in TLC.

DISTRIBUTION & ECOLOGY: Pantropical (Lücking et al. 2009); new to Hong Kong. This corticolous species was previously reported from China (Jia & Wei 2011), Australia (Archer 2006), and Philippines (Lücking et al. 2008)

SPECIMEN EXAMINED: HONG KONG, NEW TERRITORIES, Ma On Shan, Mui Tsz Lam, 22°23'N 114°14'E, alt. 187 m, 14 Dec. 2011, Wei Guo HK359.

REMARKS: *Graphis immersicans* is close to *G. immersella* in lirellate morphology, but *G. immersella* can be distinguished by its laterally carbonized excipulum and thallus producing stictic acid.

Graphis japonica (Müll. Arg.) A.W. Archer & Lücking, Lichenologist 41: 437. 2009.

Thallus, green to greyish green. Ascomata lirellae, *subserpentina*-morph; proper exciple apically to laterally carbonized; hymenium, 140–160 µm high, not interspersed; ascospores, 4/ascus, muriform, 10–13/2–4-locular, hyaline, 30–67.5 × 12.5–20 µm, I+ blue.

CHEMISTRY: Stictic acid detected.

DISTRIBUTION & ECOLOGY: Eastern palaeotropical (Lücking et al. 2009); new to Hong Kong. *Graphis japonica* predominantly grows on trees and has been previously reported from China (Lamb 1963, Wang-Yang & Lai 1973, Jia & Wei 2011) and Japan (Nakanishi 1966, Nakanishi et al. 2003).

SPECIMENS EXAMINED: HONG KONG, NEW TERRITORIES, Tai Po Kau Country Park, Blue Road, 22°25'N 114°10'E, alt. 136 m, 10 Dec. 2011, Jinxiu Tian HK047, HK052; the road from Nam Chung to Bride Pool, 22°38'N 114°12'E, alt. 41 m, 9 Dec. 2011, Xinli Wei & Meng Liu HK009.

REMARKS: This species is most similar to *Graphis streblocarpa* (Bél.) Nyl. in all morpho-anatomical and chemical characteristics, but *G. streblocarpa* has larger ascospores and 1–2-spored asci.

Graphis parallela Müll. Arg., Nuovo Giorn. Bot. Ital. 29: 200. 1892.

Thallus, whitish grey to ivory-white. Ascomata lirellae *opegrapha*-morph; labia entire; proper exciple completely carbonized; hymenium, not interspersed; ascospores 2–4/ascus, transversely 16–23-locular, hyaline, (35–)65–112.5 × (7.5–)10–15 µm, I+ blue.

CHEMISTRY: No lichen compounds detected.

DISTRIBUTION & ECOLOGY: Eastern palaeotropical (Lücking et al. 2009); new to Hong Kong. This corticolous species was previously reported from China (Jia & Wei 2011) and Japan (Nakanishi 1966).

SPECIMEN EXAMINED: HONG KONG, NEW TERRITORIES, Ma On Shan, Mui Tsz Lam, 22°23'N 114°14'E, alt. 184 m, 14 Dec. 2011, Meng Liu HK269.

REMARKS: *Graphis parallela* is nearest to *G. bifera* Zahlbr., which differs by its considerably shorter, unbranched sessile, *opegrapha*-morph lirellae.

Graphis plagiocarpa Fée, Essai Crypt. Écorc.: 38. 1825.

Thallus off-white to greyish white. Ascomata lirellae, *dussii*-morph; labia entire; proper exciple completely carbonized; hymenium, not inspersed; ascospores, 2/ascus, muriform, hyaline, (20–)25–28/1–5-locular, 90–150 × (25–) 40–50 µm, I+ blue.

CHEMISTRY: No lichen compounds detected.

DISTRIBUTION & ECOLOGY: Pantropical (Lücking et al. 2009); new to Hong Kong. *G. plagiocarpa* is a corticolous species previously recorded from China (Jia & Wei 2011), Japan (Nakanishi 1966; Yoshimura 1974), Europe (Staiger 2002) and Australia (Archer 2005).

SPECIMENS EXAMINED: HONG KONG, NEW TERRITORIES, Tai Po Kau Country Park, Blue Road, 22°25'N 114°10'E, alt. 157 m, 10 Dec. 2011, Meng Liu HK041–2; Kadoori Garden, Kwun Yam Shan, 22°25'N 114°07'E, alt. 550 m, 12 Dec. 2012, Meng Liu HK242, HK237.

REMARKS: *Graphis plagiocarpa* is very similar to *G. lumbschii* (A.W. Archer) A.W. Archer in lirellate morphology but differs in lacking lichen compounds. *Graphis cleistoblephara* Nyl. and *G. sorsogona* Vain. also have short unbranched lirellae (*dussii*-morph), but *G. cleistoblephara* produces norstictic acid, and *G. sorsogona* has a laterally carbonized exciple.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by a grant from the Korean National Research Resource Center Program (NRF, 2011-0031494). The authors are indebted to Prof. Dr. J. C. Wei, in providing precious suggestions and help in this study. The authors are grateful to Dr. Ze-Feng Jia and Dr. Santosh Joshi for their valuable comments on the manuscript. We express our thanks to senior technician Ms H. Deng for giving assistance in HMAS-L, to Dr. X.L. Wei, Ms J. X. Tian, and Mr. M. Liu in helping specimen collection, and to Dr. H.J. Liu for modification of the graphics.

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